THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 30. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

A MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN

CANNING TOWN PUBLIC HALL,

BARKING ROAD,

Tuesday, October 13th,

At 8 p.m.

To demand a minimum wage for women of 5d. an hour or £1 a week.

Speakers:

SYLVIA PANKHURST,
GEORGE LANSBURY,
Mrs. FITZGERALD
(Who was imprisoned on the Rand),
Mrs. PARSONS,
Mrs. DESPARD.

Chair: Miss PATERSON.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Oct. 10th, 3.30 p.m.—Bromley, 20 Railway Street—Poster Parade.
Sunday, Oct. 11th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Phillips, Miss Somers.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Miss Phillips, Miss Rickards, Mrs. Schlette.
Monday, Oct. 12th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall.
8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.
Tuesday, Oct. 13th, 2.30 p.m.—30 Churchill Road (indoors)—Mrs. E. Duval.
8 p.m.—**Canning Town Public Hall**—
7.30 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Mrs. E. Duval.
Wednesday, Oct. 14th, 8 p.m.—**Limehouse Town Hall**—East India Dock Gates, Poplar—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Miss Rickards.
Thursday, Oct. 15th, 3p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Scurr.
8p.m.—Knapp Road.—Miss Fedden.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Miss Feek.
Friday, Oct. 16th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Harley.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Road—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Miss Beauchamp.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, and 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Saturday mornings. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

OUR MOTHER AND BABY CENTRES.

Our milk bill has increased to enormous proportions. We are supplying milk to babies and invalids daily at 400 Old Ford Road. The members at Crowder's Hall, Bow, and 20 Railway Street, Poplar are also increasing rapidly, and we want to start a further centre at Canning Town. We cannot open a centre at Canning Town until we get more money. We also urgently need further subscriptions to keep going our present supply of milk, which has already saved numbers of baby lives. Quite a number who have been given up by the doctors have been saved by the milk and the care of the nurses and doctors who are so kindly helping us. Doctor Lilian Simpson attends weekly at Old Ford Road and Dr. E. M. Royle at 20 Railway Street, Poplar. Nurses Smith, Pritchard, Godwin and Hebbes are also giving very valuable help. Another nurse will be needed for the centre we wish to start at Canning Town. Who will volunteer?
We greatly need gifts of:—

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE. BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT and BANDAGES.

THE BABIES' HOUSE.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes is opening a Babies' House at 45 Norman Road as soon as it can be got ready. Lady Sybil Smith will take charge of the nursery, which will be run on the most up-to-date lines. The babies in the nursery will be the children of mothers who go out to work, they will range from a few months old to five years. In the upper part of the house some of the nurses and others who have come down here to help with our work will be able to live. Some of the furniture for the house has already been given to us, but we still need chairs, tables, cupboards with drawers and space for hanging, knives, forks and spoons, six fenders and sets of fire irons, two sets of toilet ware, four towel horses, brushes and cooking utensils, tables of all sizes, towels and bed and table linen, four babies' high chairs and some more perambulators. We shall be very grateful if friends will send these things to us.

OUR CO-OPERATIVE BOOT FACTORY.

At the rear of the Babies' House is a workshop in which we are going to start a co-operative boot factory. The workers will be paid a regular weekly wage, the men the usual trade union rate and the women, either the recognised rate for the work they are usually engaged in, or, if the usual rate does not reach this standard, 5d. an hour or £1 a week. They will also share out the additional profits at stated intervals.

We can thoroughly recommend the boots which will be made at our co-operative factory. Mr. Payne, who will be the manager, has made boots and shoes for many members and officials of the Federation, and these have always beaten the record for wear and comfort

Our prices will fluctuate like those of other firms, if leather goes up greatly owing to the War. Our present price list is as follows:—

LADIES—Glace Kid Button Boots 9/6 and 11/6; Lace ditto. Box Calf, 9/6 11/6 and 12/6. Superior quality, hand-sewn, 18/- to 21/- or hand "sew-round" from 12/6 to 21/-. Shoes, Glace Kid or Box Calf, 7/6, 8/6 and 9/6. Superior quality, hand-sewn or hand "sew-round" 10/6 to 15/-.

GENTS—Lace and Button Boots. Glace Kid 11/6 to 15/-. Box Calf 6d. extra. Superior quality, hand-sewn 18/- to 21/-.

GIRLS—Glace Kid Button Boots, sizes 11 to 1 in women's, 6/6, 7/6, 8/6. Sizes 4 to 10, 3/6 to 7/6. Box Calf ditto.

The Co-operative Boot Factory will also undertake repairing—

Children's Shoes, soled and heeled	1s. 0d.
ditto ditto machine sewn	1s. 3d.
ditto ditto hand sewn	1s. 6d.
Women's Shoes, soled and heeled	1s. 6d.
ditto ditto machine sewn	1s. 9d.
ditto ditto hand sewn	2s. 0d.
Men's Shoes, soled and heeled	2s. 6d.
ditto ditto machine sewn	2s. 9d.
ditto ditto hand sewn	3s. 6d.

Our Special Sanitary footwear with Wool lining—Women's Boots 18s., Shoes 16s. Men's Shoes 18s., Boots 22s. 6d.
Our Special "Natural" Shoes for Children made to measure from 4s. 6d.

THE RAILWAY STREET RESTAURANT.

BABIES' OUTFITS.

We wish to be able to lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months, and to give them the first set of short baby clothes.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, three flannel barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two night gowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Women who can work care more for work than for charitable doles, what we need most is money to set them to work. We are employing women to make garments to give away to destitute mothers who are ill or who have too many children to be able to do anything beyond the unpaid labour of caring for their homes and children. We are also executing orders for knitting and garment making of all kinds, and in our Co-operative Boot Factory we hope to employ a number of women. Please send us as many orders and as much money as you can.

Remember that we refuse to employ women at a sweated wage and pay a minimum of 5d. an hour or £1 a week. We are struggling to raise the sweated wages of women, and though we are only able to employ a comparatively small number of women, we realise that "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

EAST LONDON WOMEN AT THE WAR OFFICE.

On Friday October 2nd, it was arranged by Lord Kitchener, that Mr. Harold Baker should receive, on his behalf, a deputation from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes. When the deputation of twelve women reached the main entrance to the War Office, they were told, before they had a moment to state their business, that the enquiry office was at the side door. They explained that they did not want to make enquiries, but had an appointment with Mr. Harold Baker; but the policeman in charge would not listen, and merely repeated that they must go to the side door. When they had gone round to the side door they found a large number of people examining a German gun, and numbers of others who had come to ask information. Some moments passed before they could get anyone to attend to them. Then Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who was the leader of the deputation, was asked to leave the others waiting in the courtyard and to go inside with an official. This official eventually escorted her to the porter at the main entrance, where the deputation had originally applied. The porter said that deputations to important people like Mr. Harold Baker always came in through the front door, but he had no instructions in regard to this particular deputation, and must make further enquiries. Having done so he reported that he had found a room for the deputation, but that it was not large enough to receive them all. The room proved large enough to receive many more than twelve women, but there was only a limited number of chairs.

Mr. Harold Baker seemed taken aback when he found that, instead of being a group of official persons the deputation consisted almost entirely of soldiers' wives. He said to Miss Pankhurst: "I only want to hear the officials; I do not want to listen to the actual cases." Miss Pankhurst said: "But surely you want to understand their point of view and to hear what their actual experience is?" Mr. Baker replied: "This is not a court of enquiry; we are not prepared to receive sworn statements. It is no use listening to them." Miss Pankhurst said: "This deputation is to represent the opinions and experiences of the women concerned. It will lose a great part of its value if you do not hear them." Mr. Baker replied that he could only allow five women in the room at once and that the remaining seven must be left outside. Under pressure he agreed to hear what some of the soldiers' wives had

(*Continued on page 119, col. 1.*)

A Public Meeting

WILL BE HELD IN

Limehouse Town Hall,

ON

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14th,

AT 8 P.M.

To demand a minimum wage for women of 5d. an hour or £1 a week.

Speakers:

SYLVIA PANKHURST,
BEN TILLETT,
JOHN SCURR,
Mrs. WALKER,
Miss MARGARETTA HICKS

Chair: Mrs. DRAKE.

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

SALE OF WORK, Antiques and China. Friday, October 23rd, 2.30 to 9.30, at Alan's Rooms, 263 Oxford Street, W. organised by Forward Cymric Suffrage Union Proceeds for the Welsh Women and Children suffering through the War. Mrs. D. A. Thomas will open the Sale. Speeches by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Abadam, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Emerson, Mrs. Davies. Subject: "Women and War." Tickets and all particulars from Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, 69 Wimpole Street, W. Entrance—Threepence after 6.30.

BUY Dimoline English Made Pianos. Special prices during the war. Cramer 12 guineas. 11 Parkhurst Rd., Holloway.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 39.—Saturday, Oct. 10th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

THE NATION'S DEPENDENTS.

Cannot some reasonable scale be found to ensure the ordinary necessaries of life to the widow and children of every soldier killed in the War?

The present pension of 5s. a week for the mother and 1s. 6d. for each child is a mockery. No family can subsist on such a sum. The Local Government Board allows for the children whom it boards out, 5s. a week at ordinary times, and 6s. a week now, during the War.

When establishment charges are considered, the cost of keeping each child in the various Poor Law Institutions is said to be about £1.

How can a mother feed and clothe a child then on 1s. 6d. a week? How can she feed and clothe herself and pay her own establishment charges on 5s.? She cannot do it! Some people are now proposing that 10s. a week shall be paid to soldiers' widows and 2s. to their children. This plan, too, has a number of serious drawbacks, and raises some highly controversial issues.

Let us begin by considering the question from the standpoint of the women with children. In the first place a woman cannot live in the large towns with a reasonable amount of necessaries on 10s. a week, and she cannot anywhere feed and clothe her children properly on 2s.

To secure reasonable necessaries there must be a minimum of £1 a week for every individual household, and, if there are more than two children, 10s. for the mother and 5s. for each child. As stated above, the Local Government Board allows 6s. for each child during the present war.

It may be that, in country districts, mother of families could manage to scrape along fairly decently with a smaller income than this, but certainly in London and the larger towns and cities it is impossible. If less money than this is coming into the home, it simply means that the family go short of nourishment that they ought to have, or the mother must go out to work to supplement the pension. If she does so, she cannot, unless and until some adequate plan of co-operative housekeeping is devised for her children's needs.

Moreover there is the danger that she will go into the labour market, content to work for a wage, which, added to her pension will make her fairly comfortable, but which will mean partial starvation to women who have to live on it.

This applies also to woman without children. If her pension is too small to live on, she will be tempted to go into the labour market to supplement it, and the tendency will be for her to accept less for her work than ought to be paid for it. Thus she will be subsidising the unscrupulous employer of sweated labour and making it harder for other women to earn a living. Those very women with whom she is competing will be helping, directly or indirectly, to pay the pension which enables her to work for a sweated wage.

This last point raises a question which the nation should very carefully consider. Is it wise to remove from the need for earning a living, numbers of young, able-bodied widows who have no children? Is it ever wise from the standpoint of the whole community to increase largely the number of people who need not work or, in other words, who have been given the power to live on the labour of other people?

In an access of fervent sympathy for the woman whose husband is cruelly snatched away from her, do not let us forget that if we pension the young widow without children, so that she need not work, we force the rest of the population to maintain her, and it is not the millionaires who will have to provide her sustenance, but the workers who toil to produce all wealth—the fathers of large families, the sweated women workers, even the other poorer widows with numerous little ones of their own to keep.

The widow with children is on an entirely different footing; she works for her living by caring for her children, and whether she be the widow of a soldier or a civilian, she is entitled to adequate maintenance for them.

But suppose it were decided to endow the children of the soldiers killed in the War and to give to the mother no maintenance on her own account, another difficulty would arise. The young widow of a soldier might turn to and earn a living for herself, but the woman who was left with a family of little children when her husband died, and has toiled to bring up her children until the youngest has started work, is not young enough to be fairly expected to start wage earning on her own account.

Even a young widow without children deserves compensation for the disturbance of her life's plans brought about by the killing of her husband—she cannot be compensated for his loss.

Therefore it would seem wise that:

(1) A young widow without children should have the lump sum to which she would be entitled under the Workmen's Compensation Act if her husband had been killed in an industrial accident.

(2) A widow with one or two children should have £1 a week, the minimum on which an individual home can be maintained without risk of serious physical deterioration.

(3) That the widow with three or more children should have 10s. for herself and 5s. a week for each child (6s. in war-time) until the children reach the age of 16, at which time they should either be apprenticed to trades, or, if they show special aptitude, kept at secondary schools or universities with maintenance scholarships and trained for one of the professions, as is done in the case of orphans and dependent children of the Hungarian State.

(4) That after all but the two younger children have ceased to have the maintenance allowance due to them as children, the maintenance allowance for the household revert to £1 a week, and continued for the mother during her lifetime.

We are loth to suggest any reduction of these modest sums in any part of the country, but, in view of the miserably underpayment of labour, and the differing economic conditions in country districts, the scale might be graduated from £1 in London to 17s. in Lancashire country districts.

But all this talk of pensions for the soldiers widows and the increased allowances that have at length been made to the soldiers wives and children brings us back to the awful misery and distress into which those are placed who are not the relatives of the soldiers fighting at the front or camping out at home, but are merely out of work through the war.

The Labour War Emergency Committee put forward the following modest scale of relief for these cases, based on the scale laid down by the Government for the soldiers' dependents—

One adult, 12s. 6d. per week
Two adults, 17s. 6d. per week
Two adults and one child, 20s. per week
Each additional child, 2s. 6d. per week
3s. 6d. extra for the London Boroughs.

Fulham, Poplar, and other Local Representative Committees adopted the following scale:—

12s. 6d. a week for one adult
7s. 6d. each for more than one adult living together
4s. for each child, 10 to 16 years
3s. 6d. for each child, 5 to 10 years
3s. for each child under 5 years

with a maximum of 25s. for family, save in exceptional cases.

The Government has meanly decided to grant only:—

6s. a week to one parent
10s. a week to two parents
1s. 6d. a week for each child.

It is not possible to keep homes going on such miserable prices, and meanwhile Borough Councils refuse to set public works afoot. Mayor's Local Representative Committees declare that the provision of work is the Borough Council's affair, sweating is proposed in the Queen's workrooms, the price of food goes up, and trouble gathers thick.

Oh, poor England, if your people submit to slow starvation what a woeful England you will be!

What can we women do to stop it? How handicapped we are because we have not got the Vote, because we have no power over the political machine. But are the men and women, who sit on local Representative Committees, and who adopted those higher scales prepared to administer these base starvation doles?

Let us hope not!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A POUND A WEEK.

Dear Friends,—

One of the greatest services that we can render at the present time is to keep pegging away at our demand for a minimum wage of 5d. an hour or £1 a week for all women employed in relief works subsidised by public funds, or employed by Government contractors. In reply to the East London Federation's last letter to the Queen we have an answer from Mr. Herbert Samuel, who tells us that the matter is under consideration. Let us throw all our energy into securing that the consideration shall result in the adoption of the rates which we have named.

This is a vital matter, because if the minimum wage can be established for the large number of women employed in relief works and on Government contracts, private employers will be forced to come into line. The scandalous sweating of women has been a blot upon our civilisation for many a long day, and the attendant misfortunes will be greatly intensified, as a result of this war, because a very much larger proportion of women will in the future be the bread-winners for families than has hitherto been the case, owing to the number of men who will be killed.

It is stated by the organisers of the Queen's "Work for Women" Fund that the charwomen engaged in cleaning the workrooms are to be paid at the rate of 5d. an hour, as this is the rate recognised by the L.C.C. for such work.

Let this rate be applied to all the women in the workrooms. Surely it cannot be contended that charing is more highly skilled than machining, buttonholing, hat trimming, and such things!

Please note the following significant statement:—

"The Central Committee for Women's Employment (the organisers of the Queen's Work for Women Fund) are limited to dealing with the case of women whose work has been partially or wholly interrupted owing to the war, and it is important to make it clear that they cannot undertake to be the means of providing employment for women who have not been previously earning wages."

This disposes of the idea that the workrooms will be filled with poor useless helpless women, who have never attempted to earn their living before. There is, therefore, the less excuse for employing them at sweated rates.

As for the contention that no more than 10s. must be paid because the Queen's Fund cannot afford to pay more, the fact of the matter is that the Queen's Fund cannot afford to pay 10s. a week to the unemployed women, for, after many weeks of collection, the fund only amounts to a little over £68,000, and there are over 36,000 unemployed women on the Labour Exchange registers, which do not deal with domestic servants. Large numbers of other unemployed women are unregistered for a variety of reasons.

It is evident that the Queen's Fund must be supplemented by the Government. Let the Government do its duty by the women and pay them a living wage.

A campaign of meetings to demand a minimum wage for women of 5d. an hour or £1 a week starts on October 13th at Canning Town Public Hall. Be sure that you are there to help to give the movement a fine send-off.

The efforts of those who wish to secure a decent minimum of comfort for the wives and families of soldiers have not been as successful as we could wish, but have at least resulted in a substantial increase of the allowance and in the abolition of the iniquitous system under which the allowances have been paid. From this time forward women will get their money through the Post Office without any of the fussy and impertinent questionings which have hitherto characterised the payments, and, let us hope, without the long delays to which they have been subjected.

We must make up our minds to secure a proper allowance also for the widows, and especially for the children, of the soldiers, and if we are persistent enough, no doubt we shall get our way!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

We learn that at women's workrooms in Brighton a wage of 6s., with tea, is paid. The women are allowed time off to look for work, but if they take time off a reduction is made from their scanty wages.

SWEATED FOR THE ARMY.

SOLDIERS' VESTS AT LESS THAN TWOPENCE EACH.

Women are making Army vests in at least one factory at Woolwich at 1s. 10½d. a dozen.

This is the information laid before the London Management Committee of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses, who have lodged a strong protest in the proper quarter.

It is utterly impossible, they point out, for the women employed to earn the minimum rate of wages fixed by the Board of Trade for the work specified.

The management committee of the society are also urging the necessity for a thorough and searching investigation into the rates of wages and conditions obtaining in certain Government contractors' factories, as it is felt that there is a tendency on the part of some employers to ignore the minimum rates fixed by the Trade Boards Act, and take advantage of the present grave crisis in order to force down wages.

The society is dealing with a complaint which comes from Plymouth, where, it is said, khaki uniforms are being made complete for 1s. 6d. and breeches for 7½d. They contend that the Government should open national workshops and have the whole of their army outfits made under Trade Union conditions. The E.L.F.S. and others have drawn the attention of the War Office and the Board of Trade to case after case of gross sweating of women by Government contractors, but still the evil continues—a clear proof of the need for Votes for Women!

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S.:— Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

(*Continued from page* 117.)

to say, but he hoped that this part of the proceedings would be as brief as possible.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who introduced the deputation, first said that the East London Federation of the Suffragettes was anxious for an assurance that the whole of the money to which soldiers' wives and families were entitled would now be paid through the Post Office and quite apart from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. If that assurance were forthcoming she would not refer in detail to the treatment which the soldiers' wives and families had hitherto been subjected. This treatment had certainly been disgraceful. Many of the women had been left weeks without any allowance whatsoever, and many had gone for days literally without food. They had been obliged to sell or pawn their clothes and furniture to keep themselves and their families from starvation. Sir Charle Harris, who was also present, here interrupted her, saying that the whole of the money would now be paid through the Post Office and that it was unnecessary to go into this point further. It was largely the fault of the women themselves that they had not received allowances. He was surprised at the ignorance displayed by them. Mrs. Drake asked whether it would not be possible to take all particulars from the men at the time of enlisting or when they were called up, in order that the wives should not have to find out for themselves where and how to get the allowances that were due to them. Sir Charles Harris replied that many men were apt to "forget" they had wives and families and others were "glad to bolt."

Miss Pankhurst then referred to the scale of payment to wives and children of soldiers. The Federation asked for a minimum of £1 a week for women with no more than two children, and where there were three children and upwards, 10s. for the mother and 5s. for each child. Miss Pankhurst said that it was impossible to maintain any home with the ordinary decencies of life for less than £1 a week, and it was impossible to maintain a child for less than 5s. a week where a number of people were living together. The East London Federation of the Suffragettes, though composed of London women, had passed a special resolution on behalf of the women in the country. They considered that if all women outside London were paid 3s. 6d. a week less than women living in London, this would be unfair to provincial women, especially to those living in large towns. Figures to prove this were given, from the Board of Trade report on rent and prices, published in 1908, which showed that whereas the rent and prices which a woman in Croydon had to pay, were 99, as compared with 100 in London, her allowance as a soldier's wife would be 78'1 if she were without children, 81 if she had one child, rising to 86'3 if she had four children. The figures for a number of other towns were also given.

If any difference was to be made between women in London and the provinces, it ought certainly to be on a graduated scale.

The Federation urged that if the soldier at the front had been the sole support of his parents and brothers and sisters, they should be put on the same footing as a wife and family and that if he had partially supported them, they should have the same weekly sum that he had contributed.

With regard to the women who had lived with soldiers as their wives although not legally married, the Federation asked that they should receive the same payment as though they had been married. The man who was fighting at the front was entitled to the same wage whether he were legally married or not, and the children ought not to be made to suffer because their parents had not been married.

The next point raised was in regard to widows and orphans. The Federation asked that on the death of a soldier, his wife should be compensated under the Workmen's Compensation Act, as though her husband had been killed in an accident, and that the soldier's children should be entitled to 5s. a week each until they were sixteen. (If there were one or two children it would be necessary in cities to give a larger allowance.) And that when they were sixteen they should either be sent to the secondary schools and their maintenance paid for, or apprenticed to trades according to their abilities. This is done very successfully in Hungary in the case of dependent children placed in the care of the State. Sir Charles Harris here interrupted to say that at the present time soldiers' widows received 5s. a week and 1s. 6d. for each child.

Mrs. Drake said that she was under the impression that when a soldier was killed, at the present time the allowance was stopped, and that nothing more was paid to the family.

Mr. Baker said that he was surprised at the ignorance prevailing on this point, as that was the scale fixed at the time of the Boer War. Mrs. Drake said: "The scale is old-fashioned and wants bringing up to date. The cost of living has gone up since then."

Miss Pankhurst said there should be an adequate allowance for each child.

Sir Charles Harris said that there *was* an allowance for each child.

Miss Pankhurst said that it was not an *adequate* allowance.

Sir Charles Harris said that it depended on who had to live on it; some people could not live on it. Everyone could not live on the same amount of money.

Miss Pankhurst then asked whether in the case of men who were returned wounded from the front and were placed in hospital away from the towns in which they lived, arrangements were being made to enable their wives to have free passes on the railway to visit them and all expenses paid. She quoted the case of a woman who was hopping in Kent and who received a telegram that her husband was lying dangerously wounded at Southampton. But for a collection being taken amongst the people in the hop-field, she would not have been able to see him. Sir Charles Harris said that the women were to be given free passes on the railways.

Miss Pankhurst then raised the question of soldiers married "on the strength" prior to the commencement of the war. It was reported that women at Woolwich and in other places had been turned out of their married quarters. The Federation had not any cases of this kind in their own district, but they asked for an assurance that if it was necessary to remove the women from the quarters in which they had lived, that proper accommodation should be made for them elsewhere. Sir Charles Harris said that the women who had been removed from Woolwich were "living in clover," and were very much pleased with the changes that had been made.

Miss Pankhurst asked for it to be more widely made known that women married to regulars before the commencement of the war were to be entitled to the same allowance as that made to new recruits and reservists, because many of them were under the impression that they were not entitled to this allowance, and many of them had not received it. Sir Charles Harris again expressed surprise at the ignorance of the public.

Mrs. Drake asked that the fact that wives and children were entitled to 5s. and 1s. 6d. a week respectively, should be published in order that the women might know it. Sir Charles Harris said that no one appeared to read the information which the War Office published, and that all information was posted in Post Offices and Police Stations.

Miss Jones, who has been managing the distress bureau at 400 Old Ford Road, gave various details in regard to the difficulties which arise through marriage certificates being lost through being sent to the War Office, and through the fact that many of the women have been unable to supply their husband's regimental numbers. Sir Charles Harris said that women ought to apply for money to the army paymasters and not to the War Office, and the fact that they did not know it was another proof of the ignorance of the public.

A soldier's wife who has six children and who was kept waiting a considerable time for her allowance, and was obliged to go several days without food, also explained her position.

A woman who some eight years ago, was deserted by her husband, and who then had two children, and who for the last six years has been living with a reservist, by whom she has two other children, then told of her unhappy plight and complained of being left without any allowance.

Mrs. Payne, who spoke for another soldier's wife who was unable to be present on the deputation, said that though this woman had five children, she was urged by the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association to move into one room and to sell her furniture.

Mr. Baker here intervened to say that he did not want to hear any more from the women concerned, and that he would now make his reply.

He said that he did not think it possible that the scale of payment for soldiers' and sailors' wives could be further raised as the present scale had only just been adopted; but more money could be given in special cases.

Miss Pankhurst said that one of the members of the deputation, who had been kept outside, was a soldier's wife without children, who was unable to work, because, through some disease that she had had, she had lost her fingers. She asked whether this was a case where the allowance of 12s. to a wife without children would be supplemented. Mr. Baker said he did not know; but that it probably might be.

He added that the question of widows and orphans was under consideration and that a statement would be made about it shortly, but he wished to say that it was a very difficult question to decide.

The position of "unmarried wives," if he might use that phrase, was also a difficult one, and a statement as to what these women were to have was to be made shortly.

A statement as to what was to be done for the parents of soldiers, would also be made.

He assured the deputation that their views would be laid before the proper authorities.

GIRL STRIKERS UNPATRIOTIC?

About fifty girl machinists at Messrs. Frame's clothing factory, Reading, who have been working on an Admiralty contract, have struck work for better pay.

The *Daily Express* calls the girls "unpatriotic" but omits to state what wages they are paid. There is nothing patriotic in working at sweated rates to pile up profits for Government contractors.

VOTES FOR WOMEN WON IN ICELAND.

On August 12th, the Icelandic Parliament granted to women over forty years the same political rights of voting and election as those of men of twenty-five, a curious arrangement which is to be gradually improved by the reduction of the women's qualifying age at each election, until both women and men are voting and eligible for election on equal terms, at the age of twenty-five.

The measure was carried unanimously in the Upper House and with one dissentient in the Lower House. It awaits the sanction of the King of Denmark.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

WHAT THEY SAY IN AMERICA.

Mr. Upton Sinclair in the appeal to reason, says:

"Seventeen millions of men are suddenly withdrawn from productive industries and set to destroying what they have previously produced. Earnest, patient, working men, men who have not the remotest quarrel with one another, are dragged from their wives and children and sent out to murder each other with the most intricate and expensive machines that human ingenuity has been able to devise.

"I assert that never before in human history has there been a war with less pretence of justification. It is the supreme crime of the ages, a blow at the very throat of civilisation.

"The three nations that began it—Austria, Russia and Germany—are governed, the first by a doddering imbecile, the second by a weak-minded melancholic, and the third by an epileptic degenerate, drunk upon the vision of himself as the war lord of Europe. Behind each of these men is a little clique of blood-thirsty aristocrats. They fall into a quarrel among themselves. The pretext is that Servia instigated the murder of the heir apparent to the Austrian throne. There is good reason for believing that as a matter of fact this murder was instigated by the war party in Austria because the heir apparent had democratic and anti-military tendencies. First they murder him and then they use his death as a pretext for plunging the whole of civilisation into murderous strife.

"The people of the world did not want this war. They are forced into it at the point of the bayonet."

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The International Woman Suffrage Alliance is using all its energies to promote the peace of Europe. Miss Rosika Schwimmer, of Buda Pesth, who for some time was stationed at the Bureau in London, and who is Secretary to the Alliance, has gone to America on a peace mission. With Mrs. Chapman Catt, the president of the Alliance, she recently interviewed President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan and presented cables and letters of appeal to the United States to mediate from women of all parts of Europe. A petition from women in twelve countries was also presented outlining a scheme of mediation and calling for a Court of Arbitration—preferably in Norway.

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"'What are all these black spots, Sam?' asked a mother, as she was giving her young son his bath. The little boy looked himself over, and answered, 'Those that won't wash off are fights.' The black marks that war leaves upon the body of a nation are slow indeed in passing away; and they cannot be washed off by women's tears. With every day that passes, American mothers, watching the war in Europe, are making up their minds deeply and silently that they will have a voice in future in deciding the issues that lead to peace or war."—Alice Stone Blackwell, in the *Woman's Journal*, Boston, U.S.A.

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"Whenever I think of Europe at war I do not think of it as a place of roaring cannon and flaming passions. I feel the anguish of the man who is about to die, yet the cry that I hear is not his cry, but the cry of his wife and children. I see the sad-eyed women working patiently in the harvest fields. I hear the children asking for their fathers. I see the misery, not only of this day, but of the fifty years that must follow this day—the children sent out into the world without sufficient education, the women robbed of bread that the bullets that killed the bread-winners may be paid for, the boys who will be men tomorrow condemned to life at hard labour with no adequate compensation."—Allen L. Benson, in *Pearson's Magazine*.

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Judge Owens, in the Chicago County Court, has decided that the newly enfranchised women voters may vote for County Commissioners. Two women, Miss Harriet Vittum and Miss Mary McDowell, have been elected.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. Watkins.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Good meetings have been held indoor and out during the past week. It was good to see so many at the members' meeting on Friday. Will members make a point of always turning up like that; we have enough members to fill the hall twice over, and we do want to see it filled on Mondays and Fridays. A working party will leave the shop in Roman Road, on Tuesday at 3 p.m., volunteers wanted; also sellers for the *Dreadnought*. We do want our paper in evidence at the theatres and picture palaces, will members please help. Many thanks are due to those who take collecting-boxes, and to Miss Marks especially, who is always so willing to help. Help is also wanted to advertise our big meeting at Canning Town on October 13th. Who has any old or discarded clothes they can part with? we do need them so much for the distressed of East London. Funds are urgently needed to keep our work going and to help to buy milk for babies and nursing mothers. Please remember the Sunday evening meetings at the Women's Hall at 8 p.m. Come and bring others with you.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Oct. 2:—
Central 359. Bow and Bromley 253.
Mrs. Watkins 81
DISTRIBUTED.
Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

POPLAR.

Dreadnought *Secretary*, Mrs. Bird,
20 Railway Street.

Removal to new quarters is having good effect, five new members having been made this week. Miss S. Pankhurst's meeting was well attended on Tuesday, also fairly good meeting at Dock Gates on Wednesday night considering alteration of night from Tuesday to Wednesday. Thanks to Mr. Victor Duval at Piggott Street meeting on Friday night, also to Mr. Knight for taking the chair. Will members who can spare the time volunteer to take stand at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday morning, to either sell papers or collect money for babies' milk. It is hoped that with the changes now taking place, members will make a great effort to make Poplar a real live centre of the E.L.F.S. Members are also asked to bear in mind the two great meetings in the month. Canning Town on Tuesday, 13th, and Limehouse Town Hall on the 14th. We should also be pleased to receive the names of those who would undertake to sell *Dreadnoughts* in their workshops or factories. Good propaganda work can be done in this way.

112 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Oct. 2.

HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss Young,
100 Greenwood Road, Dalston, N.E.

Open-air meeting held at Lesbia Road on Monday. Thanks to Mrs. Davis for her very interesting speech, a huge crowd assembled to hear her. Splendid indoor meeting held at 30 Churchill Road on Tuesday at 3 o'clock. Mrs. Walker spoke on the White Slave Traffic to a good number of working women. Will members kindly make this meeting known, we want also to commence sharp at three o'clock. A great many Hackney members attended the dinner party at the Women's Hall.

21 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Oct. 2.

LIMEHOUSE.

Very good open-air meeting held at Coutts Road, Mrs. Walker in the chair. Thanks to Miss Fedden for her speech. Indoor meeting for Women only held at Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Road, every Thursday afternoon. All our friends have now returned from hopping, so we hope to see our hall full once more.

15 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Oct. 2.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

All members please make a point of being present at the Public Hall on Tuesday next as it is the first big meeting of the Autumn campaign. We need stewards, paper-sellers, and collectors for our babies' milk fund. The speaker at the "Peacock" on Monday was Mrs. Bouvier. Unfortunately, speaker for Beckton Road was ill and could not come. Do not forget indoor meeting at 124 Barking Road, Thursdays at 8 p.m. We want to welcome friends again from Gregory and Crediton Road districts. Come and bring a friend to join, as we want a huge membership to bring pressure to bear on the Government to bring about Votes for Women.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

The R.S.P.U. will hold a Social on Saturday, Oct. 17th, at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, and hope that all new and old friends will rally again to support same. Admission 3d. and refreshments at popular prices. All members of the R.S.P.U. are kindly requested to attend Branch meeting at the above hall on Tuesday next. Important business.

24 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Oct. 2.

REPORT OF DISTRESS WORK IN POPLAR.—Week ending October 2.

Mrs. Drake, *Distress Secretary*.

We commenced work in the "Women's Hall," Railway Street, Poplar, on Monday, 28th. Everything went with a swing from the beginning, all working with a will to make it a success, so the result was certain. The number of daily customers grew to 150 before the week was out, so we may safely say our work is appreciated (at least the dinners are). We are continually hearing of cases of distress and it does seem hard to have no more power than we have at present. We can only temporarily relieve in cases of sickness and distress, and advise according to our knowledge of the law. We *must* have more power and you workers must see that we get it.

Mrs. J. has three children, boys, aged 13, 11 and 6 years, who have dinner at school. Her husband has worked at his last situation as tinsmith's labourer for 11 years, and has been put off through the War. Two situations have been offered him by the Labour Exchange, but he has got into such bad health and his eyesight is not good (through the work he was doing), that he has been unsuited to them. On August 6th he left his work and since then they have been literally starving. A little girl, aged one year and nine months, fell ill as a consequence and died, having to be buried by the parish. The mother has been ill also, and her husband, like a good many more men, did not like to go to the Guardians, so she had to go hungry and get on the best way she could. She is in poor health and had to clear out of her rooms after she had sold anything that would fetch any money because she could not pay her way. A neighbour allows her to put a mattress down in her rooms at night, and that is how the family live at present. The children go to school in the morning, have dinner there and come home at night. The mother and father walk about all day. This is one case among dozens that we have and know of, and of course there are many that we do not know of. We are in great hopes of getting the authorities to do more than they have the power to do now, and we shall not rest until we have done all that is possible.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Mrs. Gilliatt 2.6, Mrs. Taylor (fortnightly) 5.0, Mrs. H. B. Lancaster 5.0, Mrs. Macnamara 2.6, A Nurse 6d., Mrs. Brewster 10.0.0, Miss Potts 2.6, Dr. & Mrs. Jones 5.0.

For Milk and General Distress: Miss Jones 1.0, A.S.L.E. & F. Bow Branch 3.0, Mrs. Ashby 5.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, H. Smalley, Esq. 10.0, Miss White 5.0, Mrs. Patterson 10.0, Miss Bellamy & Miss Saunderson 5.0, Miss Marks (collected) 8.5, Mrs. A. Newman 3.0, Mrs. M. Morgan 2.6, International Suffrage Shop (collected) 6.0, Anon 5.0, A Walworth Sympathiser 2.0, per Mrs. L. T. Lobley 2.10.0, Anon 2.0.0, Mrs. Walsh 5.0, Miss Coombs (6d. weekly) 2.0, Mrs. Drew 1.1.0, Miss Marks (collected) 15.9, Miss Watts (collected) 10.6, Misses Mann 15.0, Anon (fortnightly) 6.0.0, Cuckoo 1.6, Miss Forbes Robertson 5.0, C. M. Richardson 1.0.0, Miss Beatrice Harraden 1.0.0, A Worker 1.0, Mrs. Richmond 5.0, per Mr. R. Clark 9.6, Mrs. J. Johnson, W.S.P.U. 2.6, Miss L. E. M. Watt 1.0.0, Miss E. Canning 5.0, per Mrs. Sadd Brow 3.0, E. R. McLennan, Esq. 1.0.0, Miss Cadwell 10.0, Mrs. Wilkie 10.0, Arthur Downie, Esq. 10.0, Miss Sheppard 2.0.0, Miss Auerbach 5.0, Mrs. Reinold 12.6, Hard-up reporter 1.0, J. H. Flack, Esq., 2.0, Mrs. F. Hinks 5.0, per Miss Agutter 10.0, Lady Antrim 5.0.0.

Apples and Vegetables—Mr. Polhill.
Apples—Mrs. Graham, per Mrs. Mercier, E. Ham C.L.W.S.
Box of Pears—Miss E. Robins.
Clothes—Mrs. Rindall, Mrs. Ward-Higgs, Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Dale, Miss M. Orr.

13 Victoria Rd., Brighton, 4/10/14

Dear Miss Pankhurst,—

May I, through our splendid little paper, suggest how either coals or gas can be saved during these hard times, by using a hay box for cooking rice, macaroni, stews, fruit, or anything that requires slow cooking.

Any wooden box will do, but a very useful size is a Tate's sugar box, which can be had at most grocers for 4d. You first line it well with newspapers to cover over any cracks there may be, then you nearly fill it with hay, you then make a hay cushion just the size of the top of the box, then the hay box is ready for use. If you want to make it nice-looking you can cover it with cretonne, put handles and castors on. Now, how to use: we will take rice for an example; you put your saucepan on the gas or fire, let it boil, put in a pinch of salt to your rice, let it come to the boil again, see that the cover is on tight, and while still boiling put the saucepan into a sort of nest in the hay, put the cushion on top and if you have it, you can put a thick cloth over it, and in about 1½ hours you will have a perfectly cooked rice, gas saved, and no burnt saucepans. The one point to remember is, that whatever you are going to cook *must* be really boiling and well covered when you put it in.

I have two of these boxes in use and find them a great comfort.

Wishing you every success in your desire to relieve the awful distress that seems to be on all sides,

I am, yours sincerely, M. S. Turner

DOES EDUCATION FEED?

The problem of distress at the present time is admittedly a problem of women and juveniles. According to he census returns for 1911, 1,339,344 women wage-earners out of a total of 4,830,734 are under 20 years of age; while of these 843,053 are 17 years and under. The majority of these girls are probably "living with parents," and, in spite of the fact that many of them are not only self-supporting but contributing to the upkeep of the home, this fact proves an obstacle to their obtaining either relief, or work from the Central (Unemployment) Body. Two young single women in Bow were recently refused even the right to register at the local Distress Committee because they lived with (and partly kept) their father, a casual labourer who thought himself lucky when he got three days' employment in the week.

It is inevitable that at this time of widespread unemployment many juveniles should be thrown out of work, or on leaving school should be unable to find employment, and the recognition of this fact is forcing on the authorities and the public alike a consideration of the whole question of juvenile labour. It is admitted on all hands that wage-earning for boys and girls under 16 has disastrous effects on the health and general physique, that it tends to swell the vast army of casual labour and that it has a direct connection with juvenile crime.

"These things," says Mr. R. H. Tawney, an authority on juvenile employment, "are not matters of conjecture but certainties. They are written down in the cool language of official documents."

Now, in the face of widespread unemployment, an attempt has been made to obviate the evil effects of enforced idleness amongst boys and girls by a scheme of continuation classes in connection with the Labour Exchanges, and an oblique compulsion to attend is involved in the announcement of the officials that they will give preference, in the matter of vacancies in the labour market, to those juveniles who are availing themselves of these classes.

This scheme is as ill thought-out as it is well-intentioned. It is assumed at the present time that a boy or girl over 14 is self-supporting. The separation allowance to soldiers' wives, the allowance paid to the wives of men at Hollesley Bay, the wages paid to women in the workrooms of the Distress Committee are all reckoned *in respect of the number of children under* 14. If a boy or girl therefore is considered to be self-supporting as soon as he or she leaves school, attendance at continuation classes ought to guarantee their maintenance just as work at Hollesley Bay Labour Colony (which is, at least in intention, partly educational and of physical benefit to the men) guarantees the maintenance of themselves and their wives.

There is, moreover, a very strong objection to the semi-compulsory nature of the scheme as it is being worked at present. If it is desirable that juveniles should continue to receive education and discipline up to the age of 16 it is highly illogical to deprive them of it as a reward for having availed themselves of this opportunity. Under the existing arrangement the Labour Exchange officials propose to give the offer of employment to a boy or girl of 14 who has begun to attend the classes rather than to one of 17 who has not done so.

What is wanted is maintenance scholarships of 10s. a week for boys and girls aged from 14 to 16, and 15s. a week for those aged 16 to 18, open to all juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18, with an equal opportunity for employment whether those registered at the Exchange had attended the classes (and enjoyed the maintenance scholarship) or not. This would have the beneficial effect of raising the wages of juveniles to a minimum of from 10s. to 15s. a week, since, presumably, few would be tempted to leave school for a wage lower than the maintenance scholarship. It would also tend to relieve unemployment by removing from the labour market a number of children who are at present doing practically an adult's work at less than a quarter an adult's wage; while a thorough training in some trade, or even the development of general intelligence and powers of observation would probably save many of the children from drifting into the ranks of casual labour in later life. Is this too far-sighted a policy for the Government to adopt?

Emily D. Sharp.

PROTECTION FROM WAR DISTRESS.

By HENRY H. SLESSER.

(With aknowledgments to the *Daily Citizen*).

If, by reason of the war, you are in arrears with your rent, or in debt, or cannot pay your insurance policies, the new Courts (Emergency Powers) Act, 1914, may protect you.

You are protected:—

(a) If you are in debt for any sum (including rent) which you made an agreement to pay before August 4, 1914.

(b) If you owe rent *for less than* £50, whether you made an agreement to pay before Augut 4 or not.

(c) If you have agreed to pay any life or endowment premiums on a policy *not worth more than* £25, payable at monthly intervals or less, and which has been paid since August 4, 1912.

(d) If a bankruptcy petition has been presented against you.

LEVYING DISTRESS.

Your creditor or landlord cannot levy distress, enter possession, foreclose, or execute any judgment, nor can he forfeit your deposit, or enforce the lapse of your policy of insurance, or proceed with the petition in bankruptcy, without first applying to the Court.

The Court may be the High Court, or, in cases when the amount is less than £100, the County or Magistrates' Court. If it is a case of executing a judgment, it will be the Court where judgment was delivered.

HOW YOU ARE PROTECTED.

If, on the application, the Court is of opinion that time should be given you to make the payment, on the ground that you are unable to make the payment by reasons directly or indirectly, attributable to the war, or, in the case of bankruptcy, if the Court thinks you are unable to pay your debts because of the present war, it can, after considering all the circumstances of the case, stop the execution or bankruptcy petition or refuse your creditor any remedies on such terms as it thinks fit.

IRISH SUFFRAGISTS.

The Dublin Suffragists' Emergency Council is organising a scheme for a Co-operative Dining Room. Members of the Council have been to see our "Cost Price" Restaurants in order that they may develop on similar lines. The Southend W.S.P.U. have also decided to start a restaurant, after visiting ours.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Board of Trade reports that on October 2nd, in trades not insured against unemployment, 29,278 men were registered as unemployed by the Labour Exchanges and 36,618 women. In the previous week the figures were 30,336 and 35,637 respectively. Unemployment is therefore increasing amongst women and slightly decreasing amongst men.

A LULLABY.

Without apologies to Sir Walter Scott.

O hush thee, my baby, thy sire was a slave,
Whom overwork thrust in the dark, early grave;
The gloomy, grey streets from this den which we see,
Are hungrily waiting, dear baby, for thee,
O hush thee, my baby.

O sleep whilst thou may, babe, by night and by day,
Thy pale mother rests not, but stitches away;
There's no one to guard thee from hunger but she,
Her tears flowing silently all for thee.
O hush thee, my baby.

O hush thee, my baby, through days dark and wild
Stream sun-shafts of glory that can't be defiled;
The marching of myriads is borne to our ears,
And we will march with them, and sing through our tears.
O hush thee, my baby!

Ethel Carnie—"Voices of Womanhood"
Published by Headley Brothers, Bishopsgate.

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